

**Epi Update for Friday, October 18, 2019**  
**Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology (CADE)**  
**Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH)**

Items for this week's Epi Update include:

- Rabies vaccine and immune globulin in short supply, but still available
- Syphilis increases seen in Iowa and nationally
- IDPH salutes infection preventionists
- National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 20-26
- In the news: The end of Guinea worm was just around the corner. Not anymore
- In the news: Global Handwashing Day - Make it a family affair
- Infographic: Wash hands. Teach kids to do the same.

**Rabies vaccine and immune globulin in short supply, but still available**

There are temporary supply shortages of rabies vaccine and some rabies immune globulin products, but products ARE available. Health care providers should continue to administer rabies postexposure prophylaxis (PEP) when indicated. If normal distributors are not able to supply products, review the following instructions to obtain products directly from manufacturers:

**Rabies Vaccine**

RabAvert rabies vaccine (produced by GlaxoSmithKline) is experiencing a temporary limited supply, but is still available for both preexposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and postexposure prophylaxis (PEP). Health care providers can request RabAvert for any patient who needs PrEP or PEP by contacting GSK's Vaccine Service Center directly at 866-475-8222, Option 3.

IMOVAX rabies vaccine (produced by Sanofi Pasteur) is experiencing a temporary supply shortage and is not available at this time. Health care providers who are unable to obtain IMOVAX should use RabAvert during this time, even if IMOVAX was used to start a PrEP or PEP schedule that is in progress.

**Human Rabies Immune Globulin**

KEDRAB (produced by Kedrion Biopharma) is available with no restrictions.

HyperRab (produced by Grifols) is available with no restrictions. HyperRab® is a more potent version of the previously licensed HyperRab™ S/Dexternal and requires a smaller volume to achieve the recommended 20 IU/kg dose.

Imogam (produced by Sanofi Pasteur) is currently experiencing a temporary shortage and is only available to healthcare providers who have a patient with current suspected rabies exposure requiring immediate PEP. Providers can obtain Imogam directly from the manufacturer by faxing the completed Rabies Postexposure Form from [vaccineshoppe.com](http://vaccineshoppe.com) to 877-287-9391 (Attn: Sanofi Pasteur Customer Service).

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/availability.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/resources/availability.html).

**Syphilis increases seen in Iowa and nationally**

After a few years of plateauing, reported cases of syphilis are increasing in Iowa. Data through August 31, 2019, indicate 209 cases of syphilis have been reported this year, an 11% increase when compared to the same time period in 2018. When examining only the early/infectious stages of syphilis, the increase is even more significant, with 142 cases reported as of August 31 - a 25% increase compared to the same time period in 2018. Although increases are occurring in both men and women, the rate of increase for women is much higher. For example, secondary syphilis cases among women increased to 15 through August 31 (compared to two cases during the same time period in 2018). Increases in syphilis among women correlate with increases in congenital syphilis (which occurs when a pregnant person is infected with syphilis, remains untreated, and passes the infection on to the fetus or neonate). There were three congenital syphilis cases in Iowa in 2018. Public health officials are investigating a probable case in 2019, as well.

CDC released national 2018 STD data earlier this month. These data indicate continued increases for chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis, but highlighted increases in syphilis, particularly congenital syphilis.

State and national data highlight the importance of prevention, early diagnosis and early treatment for syphilis. Given the recent increases in diagnoses, increased testing efforts are encouraged for all sexually active populations. At a minimum, pregnant women should be tested at their first prenatal visit. Because syphilitic infection can occur during pregnancy, testing at 28-32 weeks gestation is also often beneficial.

To view the 2018 CDC data, visit [www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/std/stats18/default.htm).

### **IDPH salutes infection preventionists**

The third week of October has been designated as International Infection Prevention Week. This week serves to raise awareness of the role infection prevention plays to improve patient safety, and highlights ways to prevent the spread of healthcare associated infections. This year's theme is Vaccines Are Everybody's Business. The over 1,200 cases of measles reported this year in the U.S. highlight the need for vaccination.

For more information on International Infection Prevention Week, visit [professionals.site.apic.org/iipw/](http://professionals.site.apic.org/iipw/).

### **National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, October 20-26**

Next week, IDPH will be promoting lead prevention messages daily using social media with the hashtags #NLPPW2019 and #leadfreekids. Messages will be posted on IDPH the Facebook page, found at @IowaDepartmentOfPublicHealth.

IDPH's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) recently updated its web pages to make them more user friendly. Resources for health care providers can be found at [idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention](http://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention).

Health care providers can also view YouTube videos developed for the IDPH CLPPP by visiting the "All Resources" page at [idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention/resources](http://idph.iowa.gov/Environmental-Health-Services/Childhood-Lead-Poisoning-Prevention/resources) or directly through the YouTube links below:

- It's Important To Test Your Child For Lead ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYY4dKyHP8s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aYY4dKyHP8s))

- Preventing Childhood Lead Exposures  
([www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTaTXiD3pzc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTaTXiD3pzc))
- Lowering Blood Lead Levels With Good Hygiene And Proper Nutrition  
([www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOJwkSstVhE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xOJwkSstVhE))
- Repairing Residential Lead Based Paint Hazards  
([www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQss2YzlpyA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gQss2YzlpyA))
- Lead Exposure Risk Model  
([www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_nG9irq8-UQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_nG9irq8-UQ))

IDPH's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program can be reached at 800-972-2026.

**In the news: The end of Guinea worm was just around the corner. Not anymore**  
[www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/10/04/767177987/the-end-of-guinea-worm-was-just-around-the-corner-not-anymore](http://www.npr.org/sections/goatsandsoda/2019/10/04/767177987/the-end-of-guinea-worm-was-just-around-the-corner-not-anymore)

**In the news: Global Handwashing Day - Make it a family affair**  
[newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/global-handwashing-day-make-it-a-family-affair/](http://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/global-handwashing-day-make-it-a-family-affair/)

**Infographic: Wash hands. Teach kids to do the same.**



To view in full size, visit  
[www.cdc.gov/handwashing/images/Handwashing\\_Graphics\\_FB\\_2-01\\_1200x675.png](http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/images/Handwashing_Graphics_FB_2-01_1200x675.png).

**Have a healthy and happy week!**  
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